Kelkar Committee

6314. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kelkar Committee has proposed a multi pronged two phase strategy to help the Indian Airlines, which has negative worth of around (-) Rs. 43 crores turn around to show a net profit of Rs. 300 crore in 1999-2000 (against a net loss of Rs. 134 crore in 1995-96);

(b) The steps were proposed to be taken by the Committee in the two contemplated phases (i) 1996-97 to 1998-99 and (ii) 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 and the goals which are likely to be achieved in each phase; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon and the steps taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Kelkar Committee has recommended a capital injection of Rs. 922 crores in the first phase by way of Compensation for grounding of A-320 aircraft, Subordinated Loan, Equity Injection, Indian Airlines Employees Stock Option, Indian Airlines Contribution and ATF price differential.

In the second phases, Indian Airlines would be in a position to make initial public offering in 1999-2000, mobilising about Rs. 760 crores from the market.

The Kelkar Committee concluded that if the capital injection mentioned above takes place, the return to Government on its contribution in the year 1999-2000 would be in the region of 48% after initial public offering. Thus this would be a good investment for Government to make by market standards.

Since the recommendations of this Committee involves a large amount of financial implications, the matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission.

Sail's Products Gone on Credits

6315. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking is giving credits for sale of their products like Hot Rolled Coils/Plates/Sheets and the total debtors outstanding is more than 1000 crores which may become bad in course of time;

(b) if so, the amount which is overdue against credits given by Steel Authority of India and who are those parties from whom overdue is there and the action being taken to collect these overdues; and

(c) the precaution being taken by the Company for future in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) While in keeping with the prevalent commercial practices, also adopted by its competitors, SAIL extends credit for sale of its products in specific cases based on certain parameters of its marketing policy, it is not correct that the total debtors' outstanding which may become bad in the course of time is more than Rs. 1000 crores.

Credit is monitored by Field Offices as well as at the headquarter level. Wherever there is delay, SAIL recovers the amount alongwith the applicable interest.

Giving details of parties and overdue credits against them would not be in the best commercial interests of SAIL.

Steep Rise In Outbound Travel

6316. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government expect a steep rise in outbound travel;

(b) if so, the expected benefits which the Government expect to derive from this outbound travel;

(c) the details of facilities proposed to be introduced by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) Due to economic liberalisation and growing affluence of people an accelerated growth in outbound traffic is expected. Increased Indian business abroad, better world understanding and improved airservices to India are the likely positive impacts of the phenomenon. There are no proposals at present to introduce separate facilities exclusively for Indian outbound travellers.

Haj Pilgrims

6317. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India flight operations have got severely disrupted with national carrier committing to transport Haj pilgrims spread over two months; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Air India had to cancel/reduce its frequency of services to stations In Europe, London, Toronto, Hong Kong and Osaka due to deployment of 5 of its own B747-200 aircraft for Haj movement, 1997. This became necessary, as the private aircraft which were available for charter hire were found to be unsuitable.

Multi Media Service

6318. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start "multi media service" between Lucknow and Kanpur;